

PENDING CLAIMS:

The following set of claims is identical to those previously presented. It is being provided as a courtesy to the Examiner.

1-52. (canceled)

53. (previously presented) A purified polynucleotide, comprising an Open Reading Frame contained within SEQ ID NO:1, wherein SEQ ID NO: 1 consists of nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome, and wherein the polynucleotide is selected from:

(a) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,697,420 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome;

(b) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,699,892 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome;

(c) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,701,088 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome;

(d) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,702,588 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome;

(e) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,704,091 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome;

(f) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,705,056 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome;

(g) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,705,784 of the
Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(h) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,706,593 of the
Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(i) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,707,524 of the
Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome; or

(j) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,708,648 of the
Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome.

54. (previously presented) A purified polynucleotide, comprising an Open Reading Frame contained within SEQ ID NO:1, wherein SEQ ID NO: 1 consists of nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome, and wherein the polynucleotide is selected from:

(a) nucleotide 1,696,728 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the
Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(b) nucleotide 1,698,096 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the
Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(c) nucleotide 1,700,210 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the
Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(d) nucleotide 1,701,293 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the
Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(e) nucleotide 1,703,072 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the
Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(f) nucleotide 1,704,091 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the
Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(g) nucleotide 1,705,056 through nucleotide 1,708,746 [[f]] of the
Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(h) nucleotide 1,705,808 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the
Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome

(i) nucleotide 1,706,631 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the
Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome; or

(j) nucleotide 1,707,530 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the
Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome.

55. (previously presented) A purified polynucleotide, comprising an Open Reading Frame contained within SEQ ID NO:1, wherein SEQ ID NO: 1 consists of nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome, and wherein the polynucleotide is selected from:

(a) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,698,096 of the
Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(b) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,700,210 of the
Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(b) nucleotide 1,697,420 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the
Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(c) nucleotide 1,699,892 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the
Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(d) nucleotide 1,701,088 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the
Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(e) nucleotide 1,702,588 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the
Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(f) nucleotide 1,704,091 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the
Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(g) nucleotide 1,705,056 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the
Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(h) nucleotide 1,705,784 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the
Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(i) nucleotide 1,707,524 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the
Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome; or

(j) nucleotide 1,706,593 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the
Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome.

57-58. (canceled)